

WIA YOUTH PROGRAM DESIGN WHAT ELEMENTS TO PROVIDE?

1. THREE CATEGORIES, TEN PROGRAM ELEMENTS

The WIA Act specifies three program design categories and requires that local boards ensure that all ten program elements are available in their local area. The Act permits program flexibility in determining the definition, scope and characteristics of the elements.

The three categories, discussed at 664.405, provide the framework for the youth program design.

1. an objective assessment of each participant
2. individual service strategies, and
3. services that prepare youth for postsecondary education opportunities, link academic and occupational learning, prepare youth for employment, and provide connections to intermediary organizations linked to the job market and employers.

The ten elements may be provided in combination or alone at different times during a youth's development, as determined appropriate for each individual youth based on each participant's objective assessment and individual service strategy. The 10 elements are:

1. tutoring, study skills training and instruction leading to secondary school completion, including dropout prevention strategies;
2. alternative secondary school offerings;
3. summer employment opportunities directly linked to academic and occupational learning;
4. paid and unpaid work experiences, including internships and job shadowing
5. occupational skill training;
6. leadership development opportunities, which include community service and peer-centered activities encouraging responsibility and other positive social behaviors;
7. supportive services;
8. adult mentoring
9. follow-up services for a minimum of 12 months after last program activity
10. comprehensive guidance and counseling, including drug and alcohol abuse counseling, as well as referrals to counseling, as appropriate to the needs of the individual youth.

SUBCOMMITTEE ~ Which of the 10 elements are commonly available to Idaho's low income youth without WIA resources? These 10 elements may be accessed via partnerships and referrals rather than dedication of WIA resources.

See attachment #1, community survey.

See attachment #2, statistics on service delivery.

2. DELIVER INDIVIDUALIZED SERVICES OR BRING A FOCUS TO SPECIFIC INDUSTRIES OR MODALITIES?

The stipulation to individualize youth services is reiterated throughout the youth program regulations.

“Flexibility is key to WIA and these regulations... and determining appropriate program offerings for each individual youth. We expect that these programs and activities will provide needed guidance for youth that is balanced with appropriate consideration of each youth’s involvement in his or her training and educational plan.

Section 664.410(a) makes it clear that the local board must ensure that all ten elements are available for youth in their local area. However, 664.410(b) provides that a local program is not required to provide all ten program elements to every participant. Local program operators must determine what program elements will be provided to each youth participant based on the participant’s objective assessment and service strategy.

All youth must receive at least 12 months of follow-up services, fully described in 664.450.

3. BRING YOUTH INTO THE ONE STOP SYSTEM

Subpart G of the regulations explains that the youth program is a required One-Stop partner. Links between the youth program and the One-Stop system may include those that facilitate:

- The coordination of youth activities
- Connections to the job market and employers;
- Access for eligible youth to information and services; and
- Other activities designed to achieve the purposes of the youth program.

The Summary and Explanation of the WIA Final Rules states, “...WIA’s intent is to introduce youth, particularly out-of-school youth, to the services of the One-Stop system early in their development and to encourage the use of the One-Stop system as an entry point to obtaining education, training and job search services.”

“Further, the regulations support strong connections between youth program activities and the One-Stop service delivery system, so that youth learn early in their development how to access the services of the One-Stop system and continue to use those services throughout their working lives.”

4. BROAD COORDINATION AND LINKAGES

664.500 clarifies that concurrent enrollment is allowable for youth served in the adult program, dislocated worker program, adult education programs under title II of WIA, **and other programs**, in order to broaden options for serving youth.

Youth who are 18 through 21 years old may participate in youth and adult programs concurrently, as appropriate for the individual. Such individuals must meet the eligibility requirements under the applicable youth or adult criteria for the services received.

Programs must ensure non-duplication of services.

664.405 states that the required objective assessment and/or individual service strategy is not required if the program provider determines that it is appropriate to use a recent assessment/service strategy that was developed under another education or training program.

Regulations require “a systematic approach that offers a broad range of coordinated services”. Availability of all ten elements must be established in the youth program design. If an element is available via other local youth services organizations, linkages and coordination must be established for seamless service, rather than duplication of the service with WIA funds.

664.400 defines the composition of a local youth program and the difference between local programs and local program operators. This definition clarifies that a local youth program must include all the youth activities in a local area, irrespective of the number of operators or alternative services.

ATTACHMENT #1
COMMUNITY SURVEY

All One Stop Centers and youth service providers were asked to report on the availability of the 10 youth program elements to low income youth without WIA resources.

1. Tutoring, study skills training and instruction leading to secondary school completion, including dropout prevention strategies
AVAILABLE IN ALL COMMUNITIES
2. Alternative secondary school offerings
AVAILABLE IN ALL COMMUNITIES
3. Summer employment opportunities directly linked to academic and occupational learning
4. Paid and unpaid work experiences, including internships and job shadowing
LIMITED IN ALL COMMUNITIES
Opportunities broaden when economy is on up-swing, however not necessarily linked to academic/occupational training; opportunities further limited by participant barriers
5. Occupational skill training
PELL GRANTS AVAILABLE
****Discuss ITA option for individual choice, youth and adult apprenticeship & Carl Perkins partnerships aligned with business***
6. Leadership development opportunities, which include community service and peer-centered activities encouraging responsibility and other positive social behaviors
HISTORICALLY INTERTWINED WITH WORK EXPERIENCES
7. Supportive services
COLLABORATING W/OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, HOWEVER NOT ALL NEEDS COVERED
8. Adult mentoring
NOT AVAILABLE IN APPROX ½ OF COMMUNITIES
9. Follow-up services for a minimum of 12 months after last program activity
NOT AVAILABLE WITHOUT WIA RESOURCES
10. Comprehensive guidance and counseling, including drug and alcohol abuse counseling, as well as referrals
AVAILABLE IN MOST COMMUNITIES, BUT LIMITED; FURTHER STUDY IS RECOMMENDED